

Flathead County Fair Commission
January 12, 2009

The Flathead County Fair Commission met in session January 12th, 2009.

Members present were Vice Chairman Terry Fosbery, Commission members: Ted Dykstra, Susan Munsinger, Paul Atkinson, Office Assistant Nuggett Carmalt.

Guests Don Hines and Ron Theibert

Vice Chairman Terry Fosbery called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Minutes from the December meeting were discussed and approved.
Atkinson moved to approve the minutes as read, Munsinger seconded this motion.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Guests:

Guest Don Hines:

Don Hines wanted to know if we would need both of his buses this year. He has a potential client that would conflict with the fair dates. He would have one bus available even if he took this job. If we needed both we would have to let him know in advance.

Guest Ron Theibert:

Ron Theibert wants to have the same deal as they had in 2008. Theibert, said Jay told him they could have a similar deal this year, \$50.00 a month and Theibert would take care of the money and pay in the Fair Office. Theibert reported that Fantasy Sports Bill passed; the set-up is complicated, and because of this, it is not up to their expectations. Theibert said that the Racing Journal said if it was set up like football, the betting would take off better. Theibert said it is OK with him if they need a contract this year for the horsemen. Dykstra wants to put in the minutes that they lay out money spent on the horsemen and fine tune the contract. Dykstra made a motion to draft agreement on expenditures and rules for horsemen.
Munsinger seconded it.

Theibert told the Fair Board that he read in the paper that the Library was looking at this property. Theibert believes we should keep as much agricultural land as we can for the kids. Fosbery said the Fair Board wasn't informed on the Library proposal and they feel like Theibert does.

Fosbery thanked Theibert for paying on time, Atkinson also thanked Theibert. Atkinson said they were glad he took care of all the rent money. Fosbery said they would have Jay Scott get back a hold of Theibert on the contract for this year.

Guest Angie Olsen and Alisa Ibey:

Alisa Ibey explained how the Chicks and Chaps worked in Missoula. Ibey said they are bringing a chapter of Tough Enough to Wear Pink up here and if we wanted to be a part of that. Ibey told the Fair Board that Missoula's 4th year raised \$20,000.00 and they keep the funds local. She said that last year they raised \$50,000.00. Ibey would like to help us with our Tough Enough to Wear Pink night, she would like to see it grow and would like to be a part of it. Ibey let the Fair Board know that in Missoula the Fair Grounds gives the winning cowboys an extra \$100.00 if he is wearing pink during his ride and wins.

Ibey talked about a rubber duck rodeo that her group was putting on this year. She told the board that they sell the ducks to make money for local cancer victims and that they will be in the mall this summer. Ibey said the Chick in Chaps brought in 170 women during the fair last year in Missoula and they paid \$50.00 to participate.

Fosbery said he is all aboard and think that we should do it.

Atkinson thinks it's a great community service.

Fosbery said he will follow up with the Chicks in Chaps.

Commission Report:

Munsinger reported she was working on getting trophies for the mutton busting from MT Silversmith. She needed to know how many trophies we would need for the event. Atkinson said they ran the mutton busting in two divisions so if we could have 4 trophies, that should work out nice.

Atkinson reported on the Building he has been working on. Atkinson talked about the Proposal Grant Request to Max Baucus and a face to face meeting that they were trying to get with the Appropriations Committee. The Grant is for 1.8 million. This is for the building, and concession. The building is going to be 150 X 300. Atkinson is getting letters from the Boys and Girls Club, Special Olympics, Penco, and FFA, just to name a few. Atkinson stated that the building would be used for kids' education, AG and Learning Center; we would have all our animal exhibits in there during the fair on the dirt floor which will free up the Trade Center for more Commercial Exhibits. Atkinson added that the proposal will bring jobs to the valley and help the economy. Atkinson also added that Max Baucus' Office is very good to deal with.

Dykstra reported that the county will loan us computers for the online ticket sales. Dykstra showed the Board diagram for the online ticketing. Dykstra thinks that we will get rid of ticket booths outside the grandstand entry gates, we will just sale tickets out of the Trade Center Building this will eliminate the extra help and need for the extra laptops. Atkinson disagreed and stated that the old farmer and people like himself will still want to buy the tickets the day of the show here. Dykstra told about the future plan for ticketing that we can use county line, because we can access the internet through the fire wall. Dykstra showed comparisons of three ticketing companies. Munsinger thinks maybe we should wait until next year because the Fair is coming up fast and do we have time to get everything

together and be sure of the company we choose. Dykstra thinks we should go for it, and just do the minimum this year. Atkinson believes by the time we get tickets, and the machines the Fair will be here. He also doesn't think we need to jump in over our heads starting with the Fair. Dykstra said that EZ Tickets can get the stuff here next month. Atkinson said that we need to talk to Scott to see if we have the funds this year for the ticketing. Fosbery thinks we have to do the online ticketing and wants to know if we do it this year or next year he would like a motion. Atkinson is concerned and stated that to err is human but to mess up big time is a computer issue. Munsinger is concerned about balancing at the end of the night and how all that will work with the county. Fosbery has faith in the computers and thinks this will be a way to force us to get tickets away from the office so it is less hectic in the main office. Fosbery is in favor of going with the online ticketing this year.

Dykstra said he would find out about a time frame, power source that we need, equipment, and training. Dykstra said he would be in charge of the online ticketing.

Dykstra made a motion to go with the online ticketing and have Scott negotiate with EZ Tickets. Dykstra amended motion.

Munsinger moved to except new motion as amended.

Dykstra, Munsinger, and Fosbery voted to approve.

Old Business:

Fosbery told the board he has cost for the chutes. Fosbery doesn't feel that he is getting the go ahead to order the chutes.

Atkinson though maybe before going ahead with any chute changes we should talk to Kestler. Atkinson think that all the cowboys get the same chance the way it is and isn't sure we need to change it.

Fosbery told the board that the Preifert cost to redo the panel will be \$10,000.00-\$20,000.00 range.

New Business:

No new business.

Manager's Report:

No manager's report.

Atkinson moves to adjourn the meeting.

Dykstra second

Motion approved

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM

Chairman

Secretary/Manager

